

Village Mode



Third edition – May 2008

A peek into life in North Middleton

Editor's Letter

This is my most favourite time of year – we have had a sniff of warm weather and we can smell Summer is on the horizon! It is an especially busy time, not just for farmers and gardeners out there but wildlife too. I have always believed in recycling cat fur and the remnants from Pooh's bed didn't last long as they were swiftly snatched by a passing crow. I can visualise, somewhere in a nearby tree, that crow proudly showing off to his mate the nest stuffed with cosy sheep wool trimmed with black cat fur – the ultimate "designer bed linen" or what! But you don't need a designer bed to enjoy the third edition of your Newsletter. Just take some time out in your most comfy chair, relax and enjoy the read.

As I am sure you are aware, this year's main event is the Summer Fete on 23 August. Plans are well in hand and a lot is going on behind the scenes. Our volunteers are poised for action and the ball should start to pick up speed around mid June. However, you can start now by collecting those unwanted items we might use for sale on the day. We will advise deposit/collection details nearer the time. Meantime, the book on ideas is still open for your input so drop me a line with our ideas/thoughts/views on the Village Fete. Especially those folks out there who have been there, done that, bought the t-shirt! If you have time, why not pop along to the **next Fete meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 19 June at 7.30 pm.**

Of course, don't forget that all are welcome at the monthly Committee meetings – held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Check out the website at www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk.

A special thank you this edition to Gillian Lithgow for her important Litter article, Fiona Ross for her informative Farmer Facts and to me for my little story on Butterflies! Let us have your feedback on the articles and if you have any ideas for the next edition – serious or fun - I would love to hear from you. Happy reading.



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THE VILLAGE HALL

website – middletonvillagehall.org.uk

Some of you will have spotted building works going on at the Village Hall. An extension is being built and the planned completion date is about 6-8 weeks. This extra space will be a welcome addition to the current facilities available to all.

Meantime, the Hall is still available for local groups, private or corporate hire. Full details and hire charges can be found by visiting the website. Alternatively, contact Anne Russell on 01875 821014 or visit her in person at your local Post Office, 37 Borthwick Castle Road (open Monday-Friday 8.30am until 12 noon). For bar details visit the Middleton Inn where Fiona will be happy to discuss your requirements.

Check out here and on the website, details of events and classes available for your enjoyment.

Forthcoming Event

Save the Children Mad Hatter's Tea Party Friday 16 May

Every year ten million children die before their fifth birthday from illnesses we know how to prevent or treat. With your help we can change this. Small sums of money can make such a difference – 80p pays for one day's supply of micronutrient peanut butter which helps keep malnourished children alive, £1.00 buys 5 sachets of salts to rehydrate very weak children, £4 buys a water filter.

A group of parents from Heriot and Moorfoot primary schools are organising a Mad Hatter's tea party which we hope you will be able to attend to help raise funds for Save the Children. We look forward to seeing you on 16 May. Thank you for your support.
Anna Smaill (smailla@aol.com).

'NEW'

Action 4 Dogs – Dog Training Course



It gives me great pleasure to hold the Village's first Dog Training Course from Friday 23 May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The course will last for 6 weeks. I believe in teaching dogs by using kind and motivational methods with positive reinforcements. I am also a student in canine psychology with the Animal Care College and I help train dogs for rehoming at a welfare centre.

For any questions regarding the course and to obtain the booking form, please contact me on 07999 866989 or email info@action4dogs.co.uk. Please also visit www.action4dogs.co.uk. Look forward to meeting you, and your dogs.
Max Muir

BORTHWICK WRI

Our last meeting before the Summer break is on Tuesday 10 June at 7 pm.

This takes the form of our Annual "Open Night" – admission £3 – a great bargain for an evening of entertainment by the musical group City Bypass with a lovely tea included in the price. So why not come along?

SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB

It is with considerable disappointment and regret that I let you know that after 37 consecutive years of enthusiastic enjoyment within the local community the Committee of the Senior Citizen's Club has recently decided to discontinue its annual programme of events. For the last year or so there has been a disappointing lack of interest in the functions proposed and within the last week a planned outing to Dundee has been cancelled due to lack of response.

The one activity which the Committee intends to continue is the programme of quarterly dances (March, June, September and Hogmany). The dances are still well attended and enjoyed by many locals and others from around the district. The Committee is also firmly committed to donating to charity any money raised at the dances.

After such a long period of happy occasions of various kinds within the local community it is sad that times seem to be changing and that the interest in community activities seems to be dwindling away.

If you have any thoughts on the matter or suggestions for the future please contact me at 27 Borthwick Castle Road (tel 820786) and I shall arrange for the Committee to discuss the matter.

George Young

<p>MUMS & TODDLERS GROUP</p> <p>Informal group on the lookout for new mums to join them for fun and chat every Thursday 12.30-2.30 pm.</p>	<p>CRAFTY FINGERS</p> <p>One Thursday each month from 7.00-8.45 pm. Cost £10 annual subscription and a monthly charge of £2 per meeting. This covers all materials and includes a drink and a snack. Contact Colette 01875 823650 or Jill 01875 820882 for information about places.</p>	<p>LINE DANCING</p> <p>Every Wednesday 7.00-9.00 pm £2 per adult & £1 per child per session. Beginner class 7.00-7.30 pm followed by intermediate and advanced class 7.30-9.00 pm. All are welcome to attend for the entire session - same price!</p> <p>Contact Anne on 01875 821014.</p>	<p>PILATES</p> <p>Every Monday 6.30-7.30 pm or 7.30 pm-8.30 pm. £5 per session paid monthly in advance.</p> <p>Contact Debbie on 07920 875880</p> <p>Please note decision yet to be made on change of timing or reduction to one class.</p>
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Councillor Surgeries in the Village Hall – (see website for further details – www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk)

Jim Muirhead – every 4th Saturday – next date 24 May

Colin Beattie – 14 June (replaces 7 June date)



FARMER FACTS

Rain, rain, rain! That's how the last report started and the continuing damp weather hasn't been very kind to farmers.

Although there was only just over an inch of rain in both February and March, the ground was so wet before then that the fields could hardly cope with it. You would see many fields with water lying in them and very high levels of water in burns, streams and rivers. The period leading up to when the ewes lamb, cows calve and crops are planted or sown is very important.

Ewes which have just had their lambs don't enjoy the wet, cold weather and more importantly to their lambs (and the farmer!) they don't produce as much milk as normal. This often leads to lambs getting hungry and possibly dying. That is why they are 'lifted' (taken) from their mums and fed with artificial milk instead. At the moment we have 25 'pets' although this number should not increase as all the ewes have lambed and the warmer, drier weather is here.

Wet, cold weather also means the crops are delayed in being planted (eg potatoes) or sown (eg barley or wheat) and this usually leads to lower yields which means there will be less to feed to animals or to sell for food - both human and animals. There is a growing concern amongst farmers that there could be a food crisis looming... but that's another story!

One word of caution - please be careful what you do with any grass cuttings you may have in your garden. If you intend to throw them over the fence into a field, please check that there are no animals there. If the grass ferments and they eat it, it can give them colic, at least giving them a sore tummy, at worse it has been known to kill horses.

KEEP MIDDLETON TIDY

Ever challenged an orange-peel throwing companion in the countryside only to hear "it's all right, its biodegradable"? Well here are the facts on how long it takes for some things to biodegrade –

Apple Core – 2-4 weeks
Banana Skin – 3-6 months
Orange Peel – 3-6 months
Paper Tissue – 3 months
Cigarette – 3 months
Matches – 6 months
Chewing Gum – 5 years
Aluminium Can – 10-100 years
Plastic Bottle – 100-1000 years
Plastic Bag – 1000 years
Glass Bottle – 400 years



There are lots of things we can do to reduce litter in and around the Village –

1. **Don't overfill wheelie bins. Secure the lids.**
2. **Secure recycling boxes.**
3. **Stub and bin cigarette ends.**
4. **Take sweetie papers, drinks cans and other rubbish home to the bin.**
5. **Use less plastic carrier bags.**

And finally, don't forget to clean up after your dog.



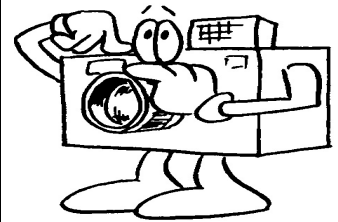
North Middleton is a fantastic place to live, let's keep it that way.

Photography Competition

Don't forget to keep on snapping your photos of Spring in Middleton for the competition. The competition closes at the end of May, so there's still plenty of time to frame that perfect picture and send it in.

Photos can either be delivered to 39 Cleuch Road, or sent electronically, so it's dead easy to enter. Why not have a go - first prize is £30 cash!

Please see the website for full details.



Feathers – the Racing Kind

Following on from our last report - local pigeon fanciers – Eric Owenson, Davi White & Rod Pringle are all extremely busy with both youngsters recently hatched and the start of the racing season for old birds (those aged one year plus). Racing weather, as is often the norm early in the season, hasn't been too kind however there are many more races to come – and prizes to be won.

Toot for Fruit

Support Scottish Produce

There's no stopping the yellow van – come rain or shine it visits our doorsteps each Friday morning with a tempting array of the finest fruit and vegetables. The Midlothian Community Food Initiative certainly do their bit to reduce so called "food air miles". Just recently they were offered fresh rhubarb from a local elderly lady who had an abundance growing in her garden. A deal was struck and the van reached me fully loaded with the most delicious rhubarb. Scottish tomatoes are on their way soon together with strawberries and raspberries and I am drooling at the thought!

THE MIDDLETON INN

There's lots going on down at the pub –

Psychic Night – 19 May – 7.00 pm

Tickets £7 – limited space left - buy your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Karaoke – every Saturday night – 9.00 pm-1.00 am

Pub Quiz – every Sunday night

Try out the weekend set menu consisting entirely of homemade food – 3 courses for only £9.95

Please note, due to expansion of delivery service, Grandma's Kitchen will be closed Mondays.

Beer garden now open

Pub opening hours –

Monday – 4.00 pm-11.00 pm (public holidays open 12.30 pm)

Tuesday-Wednesday 12.30-11.00 pm

Thursday, 12.30 pm until midnight

Friday-Saturday – 12.30 pm-1.00 am

Sunday 12.30 pm-midnight

WITH THE RIGHT PLANTS YOU CAN 'GROW' BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES

It is said that the presence of lots of butterflies is often an indicator of a healthy environment. Butterflies are very sensitive to heat loss and will avoid chilly winds (something we get in abundance) however there are currently many to be seen fluttering around our Village.

Most gardens will attract butterflies, no matter what's growing in them and butterflies prefer a much wilder environment than most gardeners would want. It is often the combined value of butterfly-friendly features in a number of nearby gardens that matters most and the main priorities in Spring are not just a nectar café but somewhere for females to lay eggs and for young caterpillars to feed so leave a few corners of grass to grow a little longer. Females are very choosy and you will see them briefly taste each leaf. Chances are you will already have some of the favoured foods - buckthorn, holly flowers, ivy and even nettles which can be grown in a container to prevent them spreading then put in the ground with its edge slightly proud of the soil surface.

Finally, caterpillars and butterflies need shelter so leave your tidying up until Spring next year, leaving a few dead flower heads and climbers in place for hibernation.

LIVE MUSIC AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Saturday 17 May – Nitrogen Sky - Tickets available in the Pub

Saturday 27 September – China Blue - For details and tickets contact Callum – tel 823827

BORTHWICK CASTLE CHURCH

BORTHWICK CASTLE CHURCH

TABLE OF SPECIAL SERVICES

*(no service is held at Borthwick Parish Church on the dates marked *)*

8 June *	United Service at Fala *	10.45 am
13 June	United Service at Borthwick	10.45 am
10 August *	United Service at Crichton *	10.45 am
28 September	Harvest Thanksgiving Service	9.30 am
5 October	Borthwick Communion	9.30 am
12 October *	United Service at Fala *	10.45 am
9 November	Remembrance Sunday	9.30 am
7 December *	United Carol Service at Cranstoun	10.45 am

F.A.C.E.

(Fighting Against Cancer
Edinburgh)

Help raise funds for this charity based at the Western Oncology Unit by donating used postage stamps and help pay for sick children make a trip to Lapland. All donations gratefully received – contact Jackie on 01875 820260.

Save your Bottle Tops

Help raise funds for a wheelchair by donating your plastic bottle tops. Contact Jackie on 01875 820260.

BORTHWICK CASTLE

Don't just walk past the Castle – visit and enjoy. Dine by candlelight in the Great Hall for only £35 per head followed by a tour of the Castle and learn about its history and legend. Visit the website for details – www.borthwickcastle.com. For bookings tel 01875 820514 or email enquiries@borthwickcastle.com.

A big thank you to all who have contributed to this Newsletter.

Remember to slap on that sunscreen out there and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Don't forget – your Village Mode needs you!
All contributions welcome – send to Susan Owenson

